

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

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TAGS: PINS, RP, CASC (LEHMAN, AUGUST MCCORMICK)

SUBJ: MARCOS ASSASSINATION PLOT HEARING

REF: MANILA 6323

SUMMARY: AT MAY 23 HEARING LEHMAN TESTIFIED THAT LOPEZ AND OSMENA FAMILIES DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PLOT TO ASSASSINATE MARCOS, PICTURING HIS OWN ROLE AS ONE OF HIRED WEAPONS EXPERT WITH TENUOUS LINKS TO MAFIA. LEHMAN REVELATIONS HEAVILY PUBLICIZED IN MANILA PRESS. LEHMAN TOLD EMBOFF HE EXPECTED REDUCTION OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM TO BE ANNOUNCED AT NEXT SESSION OF HEARINGS (MAY 27) BUT IN FACT TESTIMONY OF SUBSEQUENT WITNESS APPEARS TO BE BUILDING CASE AGAINST LEHMAN AND HE NOW FEARS DOUBLE CROSS. END SUMMARY

1. IN TESTIMONY DELIVERED BEFORE MILITARY PANEL ON MAY 23, LEHMAN ASSERTED THAT SINCE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL IN PHILIPPINES, IN BY BOTH OSMENA JR., OSMENA II, AND LOPEZ FAMILY. LEHMAN DESCRIBED SEVERAL MEETINGS AT WHICH BOTH OSMENAS AND EUGENIO LOPEZ JR. WERE PRESENT WHEREIN DETAILS OF PLOT WERE DESCRIBED. HIS OWN ROLE, AS HE DESCRIBED IT, WAS ONE OF WEAPONS EXPERT. HE RELATED AT SOME LENGTH HIS SERVICES IN HAVING WINCHESTER CAL. 270 RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH SILENCER MADE UNDER HIS SUPERVISION. LEHMAN SAID
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HE AND HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUE, LARRY TRACTMAN, LATER

TESTED THIS WEAPON AT OSMENA FARM IN CEBU. BOTH WEAPON ITSELF, SILENCER AND PAPER TARGET ALLEGEDLY USED DURING TESTING PROCESSES WERE DISPLAYED IN COURT AND IDENTIFIED BY LEHMAN, TOGETHER WITH OTHER PARAPHENALIA RELATING TO PLOT. LEHMAN TESTIMONY HEAVILY PUBLICIZED IN MANILA PRESS.

2. LEHMAN FURTHER TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO HELP DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN HOUSE WAS WITHIN FIRING RANGE OF HELICOPTER LANDING PAD AT MALACANANG. LEHMAN SAID THAT HOUSE WAS NEVER ACTUALLY PROCURED FOR PURPOSE. LEHMAN SAID THAT HE, TRACTMAN AND A THIRD AMERICAN NAMED PINCUS, HAD BEEN HIRED BY OSMENAS ON ASSUMPTION THAT PINCUS WAS RELATIVE OF A "HIGH-RANKING MAFIA CHIEFTAIN". IN FACT, ACCORDING TO LEHMAN, PINCUS' CONNECTION WITH MAFIA WAS MUCH MORE TENUOUS, ALTHOUGH HE DID HAVE LINKS WITH LOW-LEVEL MAFIA ELEMENTS. HE SAID THAT TRACTMAN HAD RECEIVED MONEY FOR HIS SERVICES FROM THE PLOTTERS WHICH WAS SUPPOSE TO BE GIVEN TO THE MAFIA CHIEFTAIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,000. ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO LEHMAN, THE MONEY WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN LEHMAN, TRACTMAN, PINCUS, AND PINCUS' LOW-LEVEL MAFIA CONTACT IN NEW YORK.

3. LEHMAN STRESSED UNDER QUESTIONING BY PROSECUTION THAT HE LEARNED OF EXISTENCE OF PLOT ONLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN PHILIPPINES. WHEN ASKED WHY HE HAD NOT REVEALED PLOT TO GOP, HE SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT HAD HE DONE SO, RETALIATION WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTANT AND FATAL. HE SAID THAT SINCE MEMBER OF LOPEZ FAMILY WAS VICE-PRESIDENT AT TIME, THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT A QIS BETRAYAL WOULD HAVE BEEN RELAYED BACK TO AUTHORS OF PLOT, WHO HAD THREATENED TO LIQUIDATE HIM IF HE DIVULGED ANY INFORMATION EITHER TO PHILIPPINES OR TO AMERICANS. MAY 23 HEARING ADJOURNED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ELABORATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT CHARGES AGAINST LEHMAN WOULD BE LIFTED OR ALTERED. LEHMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTED SOME ACTION ALONG THESE LINES AT NEXT SESSION.

4. DURING COURSE OF HEARINGS WHICH RESUMED MORNING MAY 27 AT CAMP AGUINALDO, IT BECAME QUICKLY APPARENT LEHMAN'S EARLIER OPTIMISM A LITTLE PREMATURE. ENTIRE SESSION DEVOTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO TESTIMONY OF CO-ACCUSED MANUEL CRISOLOGO WHO RECOUNTED HIS HIRING AS EXPLOSIVES EXPERT BY TRACTMAN AND FIGUERAS. CRISOLOGO ALSO TOLD HOW HE HAD SECRETLY SABOTAGED BOMBS ON THREE OCCASIONS THEREBY SAVING MARCOS' LIFE. FULL COURTROOM VISIBLY STARTLED TO LEARN FURTHER THAT CRISOLOGO HAD KEPT BG GUILLERMO PECACHE (FELLOW LIONS CLUBER) FULLY INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF PLOTS. MORE IMMEDIATELY DAMAGING TO LEHMAN WAS CRISOLOGO'S DESCRIPTION OF A TRACTMAN/FIGUERAS

CONVERSATION DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED HIRING OF AMERICAN "SHARPSHOOTER" INFERENTIALLY AT LEAST, IDENTIFIED BY CRISOLOGO AS LEHMAN. DURING RECESS LEHMAN TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD BEEN "DOUBLE-CROSSED", THAT CRISOLOGO'S TESTIMONY HAS COME AS TOTAL SURPRISE AND WAS A "BOMBSHELL". OBVIOUSLY UPSET HE ASKED FOR EARLY MEETING WITH CONSULAR SECTION REPS WHICH SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR LEHMAN THOUGHT A DEAL HAD BEEN STRUCK BY WHICH HE TOLD ALL AND IMPLICATED LOPEZ/OSMENA IN RETURN FOR EARLY RELEASE OR AT MOST MUCH-REDUCED CHARGE. HOWEVER, HAVING USED LEHMAN TO FINGER OLIGARCHIC COLLEAGUES THUS TOTALLY ALIENATING HIM FROM THEM, GOVERNMENT NOW SEEMS TO BE PROCEEDING TO BUILD CASE AGAINST HIM.
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